

PATENT**REMARKS**

Claims 26-42 are pending in the application with claims 26, 27, 35-37 and 42 standing rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lessar et al (6,006,133) in view of Pless et al (5,131,388). Claims 31, 32, 34, and 39-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lessar et al in view of Pless et al and further in view of Methlie (3,615,857). Claims 28-30, 33 and 38 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 28, 29 and 38 have been presented in independent form as new claims 43-45. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejections of claims 26, 27, 31, 32, 34-37 and 39-42. However, in order to further prosecution, independent claim 26 has been amended to clearly distinguish over the applied references. In particular, none of the references disclose, teach or suggest a "housing comprising a pocket defining a chamber and having an opening comprising opposed sides along a selected edge providing access to the chamber" wherein the opposed sides are sealed together about the feedthrough to provide a seam. It is noted that these amendments bring method claim 26 of the present application in line with claim 1 of the parent apparatus application now issued U.S. patent 6,297,943. As such, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 26 and dependent claims 27-42 are in condition for allowance.

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In conclusion, it is respectfully submitted that claims 26-42 as amended and new claims 43-45 are patentable over the art of record. Allowance and passage to issue of claims 26-45 is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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